

Also, Herrera (1889; translation mine) made the following footnote to a list of the vertebrates of the Valley of Mexico:

New research has confirmed what I have already said about this species being confined to Xochimilco. According to the *Biología* [Salvin and Godman's *Biología Centrali-Americana*], it is not *Quiscalus macrourus* [= *Q. mexicanus*], but *Q. tenuirostris* Sw., or *Scaphidurus palustris* Sw.

The grackles of Xochimilco prefer to feed on corn, which is as abundant there as elsewhere in the valley.

Hence, given reports of the species in the scientific literature and the abundant available habitat, the former occurrence of Slender-billed Grackles in Xochimilco, at the southern end of the Valley of Mexico, seems certain, and the type locality is probably correctly interpreted as referring to the Valley of Mexico.

Since the arrival of Europeans, however, the great lakes of the Valley of Mexico have been severely degraded. Worst of all, between 1609 and the first part of the present century, a series of canals was cut to drain the lakes, and the marsh habitats there have been destroyed completely. This destruction probably led to the species' extinction in the Valley of Mexico prior to the twentieth century, leaving only the Lerma populations extant when Goldman and Brown were collecting. The Lerma populations probably did not last much longer than 1910, as no substantially later records are known.

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First record of the Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus regulus* in Guyana

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While examining specimens in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP), we were surprised to find a specimen of *Machaeropterus regulus* that, for over 100 years, had been incorrectly identified as a Tiny Tyrant-Manakin *Tyrannneutes virescens*. This specimen represents the first and, to our knowledge, only record of *M. regulus* for Guyana.

The Striped Manakin *Machaeropterus regulus* is an uncommon to locally fairly common bird of humid forest and mature secondary woodland in much of northern and northwestern South America; an isolated population occurs in eastern Brazil (Ridgely & Tudor 1994). The species has not been recorded in northeastern South America (e.g. no records from Guyana: Chubb 1921, Snyder 1966; Surinam: Haverschmidt & Mees 1994; French Guiana: Tostain *et al.* 1992). Apart from the isolated Brazilian population, the previous easternmost record was from Río Surukún (La Faisca) at the headwaters of the Río Caroní in southern Bolívar, Venezuela (Phelps & Phelps 1950).

The specimen (ANSP 51442) is a female collected by Henry Whitely Jr. (1844–1893) on 10 October 1890 near Ourumee in what was then British Guiana. Ourumee is another name for the Merumé Mountains, 5°48'N; 60°6'W (Stephens & Taylor 1985). Based on range, we have tentatively assigned this specimen to *M. r. aureopectus*, a subspecies described by Phelps Gillard (1941) on the basis of a single male from Kabadiscaña in southern Bolívar, Venezuela.

Although *M. regulus* is difficult to see, it should be easily detected in the field by its calls. A number of observers (RSR, Mark, B. Robbins, Tristan J. Davis, Davis Finch), who are familiar with these calls, have visited potentially suitable areas for *M. regulus* in Guyana over the past five years without reporting this species. This suggests that *M. regulus* is local and rare in Guyana, but observers should be aware that it could occur elsewhere in the Guianas.

This observation was made in connection with our recent fieldwork in Guyana for the Iwokrama Faunal Survey made possible through the support of the Government of Guyana, the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, and the University of Guyana. We thank Graham G. Watkins for his help in coordinating the Academy's field activities in Guyana, Vicki Funk and the Smithsonian Institution's Biodiversity of the Guianas Program for its support in Georgetown, and Sally B. Conyne and Leo Joseph for their suggestions in preparing the manuscript.

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